

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **29 January 2007**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-4, 7-14, 17-24, and 27-33. Claims 1-4, 7-14, 17-24, and 27-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ouchi (USPub 2003/0039455, hereinafter “Ouchi”) in view of Robertson et al (USPN 5,857,042 hereinafter “Robertson”).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 11, and 21 were rejected as being unpatentable over Ouchi in view of Robertson. Applicant respectfully points out that the present invention teaches passing an optical signal through **annuli located within metal layers on a first semiconductor die** to focus the optical signal onto a second semiconductor die (see FIGs. 5-6; and paragraph [0041]-[0042] of the instant application). The benefit of locating the annuli within the metal layers of the semiconductor die is that the annuli are fabricated on the same die, thus obviating the need to align external annuli with the die.

There is nothing in Ouchi or Robinson, either express or implied, which suggests passing an optical signal through annuli located within metal layers on a first semiconductor die to focus the optical signal onto a second semiconductor die.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, and 21 to clarify that the present invention passes an optical signal through **annuli located within metal layers on a first semiconductor die** to focus the optical signal onto a second semiconductor die. These amendments find support in FIG. 5-6 and in paragraphs [0041]-[0042] of the instant application.

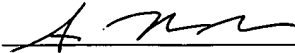
Applicant has also added claims 34-36, which comprise the original dependent claims 6, 16, and 26, respectively. Applicant has also cancelled claims 2, 12, and 22 without prejudice.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 21 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-4, 7-10, and 31, which depend upon claim 1, claims 12-14, 17-20, and 32, which depend upon claim 11, and claims 22-24, 27-30, and, 33 which depend upon claim 21, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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